27. The operations of the Survey Party were confined to the Kánara and Kolába Divisions of the Southern Circle. The detail work done in Kánara on the 4″ scale during the year was 348 square miles at an average cost of Rs. 80 per square mile as against Rs. 69 in the preceding year. In Kolába, 15 square miles were completed on the 8″ scale at a cost of Rs. 1,633 or Rs. 109 per square mile. There was thus a reduction of expenditure in the latter Division by Rs. 45 per square mile as compared with 1894-95 (no detail survey was done in the Division during 1895-96) and an increase by Rs. 11 per square mile in the former.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(*a*).—Working-Plans and their Control.

28. The Working-Plans Division of the Southern Circle was in the administrative charge of Mr. Copleston from 1st to 31st July 1896, and of Mr. Talbot from 1st August 1896 until 4th April 1897, and on the transfer of the latter officer to the Belgaum Division, the former was again put in charge.

29. Party I, under Mr. H. Mitra, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, was engaged in the organization of teak coppice in Dhárwár, and the following table shows the work done by the Party during the season of 1896-97 :—

Area estimated.	Linear miles surveyed.	Stone cairns and earthen mounds erected.	Test trees felled.	Number of compartments formed.	Test area enumerated.	Area for which data have been collected for the preparation of working-plans.	Number of tracings prepared.	Total cost incurred.	Cost per acre.
								Rs.	Pies.
99,335 ...	55	1,305	30	327	23,997	99,335	7	6,063	11·7

30. It is not possible to compare the work done last season in Dhárwár by Party I, with that done by it in 1895-96 in Kánara, the forests of Dhárwár being so much easier than the heavy timber-forest of Kánara to work in.

31. The field work in Dhárwár consisted mainly in the counting of all the mature exploitable teak trees above 4″ in diameter at breast-height in the compartments of the forests of Dhárwár, Kalghatgi and Bankápur. Mr. Mitra, who was in charge of the plan, reports that the plan is on the same lines on which the Kolába schemes were prepared, with the additions that (1) all the coupes have been permanently laid on the ground, (2) that the mature teak trees in the first 10 years' coupes have been counted wholesale, and (3) that the standing stock in the remaining 30 years' coupes has been estimated by the 'test area' and 'eye-estimate' methods. The proposed plan does not, however, commend itself, but the *data* collected by Mr. Mitra will be availed of, as far as possible, for a suitable plan which is now being prepared by Mr. Woodrow, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhárwár.

32. The work done during the year by Party II, under Mr. Sátáráwála, consists of 41,962 acres of Yellápur, for which full *data* for the preparation of working-plans were collected, at a cost of Rs. 25,077 or 9 annas 7 pies per acre. This is most satisfactory as compared with the work done during 1895-96 which was fully 1,700 acres less than that in the year under report, and yet the cost per acre was higher by Re. 0-6-10. But the year 1895-96 cannot fairly be compared with the year 1896-97, as in the former, half of the work lay on the Arbail ghâts, excessively difficult country to work in, and this accounts for the increased cost and rate per acre for that year.

33. The decrease in cost and the increase in the quantity of work done in 1896-97, are ascribed by the Divisional Officer to the following four causes, *viz.* :—

Firstly.—The area gone over was flat and gently undulating and, therefore, easily accessible from all sides.

Secondly.—The area was already cut up by roads and nálás and this lessened the work of demarcation.

Thirdly.—Labour-supply was plentiful and sustained, and

Fourthly.—Topographical survey maps were all available so that not much time was lost in surveying.

34. The details of work done by the Party during the year, as compared with the year previous, are given below:—

Name of Party.	Jungle cut and cleared.	Linear miles surveyed.	Posts fixed.	Test trees felled.	Number of compartments formed.	Test area enumerated.	Area for which full data for the preparation of plans have been collected.	Total cost.	Cost per acre.	Remarks.
								Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Party II ...	Yellápur Range in Southern Division, Kánara.	93·9	1,315	52	62	3,251·0	41,962·4	25,076 10 7	0 9 6·7	
		66	1,522	54	40	1,636	25,007	25,684 0 0	1 0 5·1	1895-96.
		+27·9	−207	−2	+22	+1,615	+16,955·4	−607 5 5	−0 6 8·4	Difference.

35. The average cost per acre for field work proper, *i. e.*, from 1st November 1896 to 31st May 1897, was 6 annas 7 pies as against 8 annas 7 pies for the same period in 1895-96; and, as stated above, the cost for the whole year was also less—9 annas 7 pies as compared with Rs. 1-0-5·1.

36. Government orders on the working-plan of the Gund series in the Northern Division of Kánara were received during the year and contracts were given out in those forests for the supply of teak and blackwood logs to the Coast-Timber-Depôt at Kôdibág as prescribed in that plan.

37. As required by paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 9450, dated 26th November 1896, the Divisional Forest Officer reports that he worked in the forests of the Gund Circle on 21st, 22nd and 23rd of November 1896 and again on 28th to 31st May and 1st June 1897.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(*a*).—Communications and Buildings.

38. Form No. 51, appended, gives datails of works executed during the year under report:—

39. "Roads and Bridges" cost Rs. 8,546, and Buildings, &c., Rs. 16,018.

40. In the Northern Division of Kánara, the construction of 9 buildings for forest subordinates was undertaken and partly done at a cost of Rs. 7,487, and additions and alterations were effected to the Range Office building at Haliyál, the cost incurred being Rs. 93. A road from Barchi to Nána-Kesrodga was also constructed at a cost of Rs. 2,620. Repairs to the existing buildings and roads, &c., cost Rs. 246 and 361, respectively.

41. In the Southern Division of Kánara, a range office was built at Siddápur at a cost of Rs. 1,096, and 1 saw-mill shed and 24 huts for saw-mill workmen were built at Ittanbail in the Yellápur Range, for Rs. 1,067 and 503 respectively. Five wells were newly built (Rs. 1,800) and the one that had been partly built at Baswankop in the previous year was completed (Rs. 186). Two roads, one from Bilki to Siddalgundi and the other from the Yellápur-Dhárwár main road to the saw-mills at Ittānbail, were also constructed, the cost incurred being Rs. 2,343 and 103, respectively. Repairs to buildings cost Rs. 1,511 and to roads and paths Rs. 1,191.

42. In the Western Division of Kánara, the well at Hattikeri was completed (Rs. 210), a temporary náka was built at Manaki (Rs. 5) and the existing buildngs and roads were repaired (Rs. 1,080 and 167, respectively).

43. In Belgaum, Rs. 200 were spent on the extension of the timber cart-road from Nágargáli to Barchi and Rs. 150 on the construction of a road from the rest-house at Nágargáli to the Barchi-Nágargáli road. Repairs to existing buildings and roads were made and the cost incurred was Rs. 142 and 1,381, respectively.

44. In Dhárwár, Kolába and Ratnágiri, Rs. 347 were spent on minor original works and Rs. 275 on repairs to existing buildings, &c.